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AUGUST 29, 1958

4:49 PM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AM 7 31

FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 185, AUGUST 29, 7 PM

PRIORITY

SENT PRIORITY BONN 163 REPEATED INFORMATION PRIORITY DEPARTMENT 185.

REF 1) BERLIN DESPATCHES NOS. 187 SEPT 17, 1957; 138 AUG 19, 1958; 157 AUG 26; 161 AUG 22

REF 2) OURTEL 24 AUG 1957 SENT BONN 199 RPTD DEPT 219

REF 3) OURTEL 7 AUG 1958 SENT BONN 113 RPTD DEPT 120

MAYOR BRANDT YESTERDAY DISCUSSED WITH COMMANDANTS MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY LOCAL SOVIET ZONE AUTHORITIES AGAINST "BORDER CROSSERS". ALL EVIDENCE AVAILABLE INDICATES MEASURE DIRECTED AGAINST "CROSSERS" FROM SOVIET ZONE NOT RPT NOT SECTOR. MAYOR BELIEVES THIS INDICATES THAT ALLIED ACTION ON "BORDER CROSSERS" TAKEN SEPTEMBER 6, 1957 (REFERENCE NO. 2) WAS EFFECTIVE. WITHOUT SUGGESTING EXACTLY WHAT ACTS SHOULD BE TAKEN, HE REQUESTED THAT WE CONSIDER POSSIBILITIES FOR ACTION. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD LIKE IF POSSIBLE MAKE SOME ANNOUNCEMENT THIS SUBJECT AT MEETING BERLIN PARLIAMENT AFTERNOON THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 4. AMERICAN CHAIRMAN COMMANDANT ASSURED MAYOR THAT MATTER ALREADY UNDER CONSIDERATION AND THAT WE WOULD TRY GIVE HIM PROMPT REPLY AS TO WHAT MIGHT BE DONE.

FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED TEXT MESSAGE TO BE SENT SOVET COMMANDANT BY COMMANDANTS WESTERN SECTORS OR WITH APPROPRIATE CHANGE IN PARAGRAPH 2 PERVUKHIN BY AMBASSADORS IF LATTER PREFERRED. FRENCH POLITICAL ADVISER UNABLE ATTEND MEETING WHERE FINAL

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DRAFT PREPARED BUT AGREED ON BASIS HIS KNOWLEDGE PRELIMINARY
DRAFT FORWARD BRITISH-U.S. AGREED VERSION BONN.

BEGIN TEXT

I WISH TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION A SERIOUS SITUATION CONCERNING THE LIFE OF THIS CITY. AS YOU KNOW, MANY THOUSANDS OF PERSONS DAILY ENTER AND LEAVE THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN IN TRAVEL BETWEEN THEIR HOMES AND PLACES OF WORK. IN RECENT WEEKS INCREASINGLY SEVERE MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY GERMAN AUTHORITIES IN SOVIET AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY TO PREVENT THIS TRAVEL AND TO HARASS THESE PEOPLE, THE SO-CALLED "BORDER-CROSSERS." THESE MEASURES INCLUDE DETENTION, DEPRIVATION OF IDENTITY DOCUMENTS, ECONOMIC PRESSURE, OFFICIALLY ORGANIZED OSTRACISM, AND THREATS.

ON SEPTEMBER 6, 1957, I EXPRESSED MY CONCERN AT REPORTS THAT THE IMPOSITION OF SUCH MEASURES WAS THEN BEING CONSIDERED AND NOW THAT THESE HAVE IN FACT BEEN IMPOSED, I MUST REMIND YOU OF THE FOLLOWING:

THE PARIS AGREEMENT OF JUNE 20, 1949, THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT UNDERTOOK, TOGETHER WITH THE THREE WESTERN POWERS, TO PROMOTE AS A COMMON AIM, THE FACILITATION OF THE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS BETWEEN BERLIN AND THE SEVERAL ZONES AND THE NORMALIZATION OF THE LIFE OF THE CITY. A NORMAL ASPECT OF LIFE IN BERLIN, AS ELSEWHERE, IS THE DAILY MOVEMENT OF PERSONS BETWEEN THEIR HOMES AND PLACES OF WORK WHEREVER THESE MAY BE. ANY ATTEMPT TO HINDER OR PUT A STOP TO THIS DAILY TRAVEL OF BORDER CROSSERS IS CLEAR INTERFERENCE WITH THE NORMAL LIFE OF THE CITY. MOREOVER, AS I POINTED OUT PREVIOUSLY, TO FORCE INDIVIDUALS TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THEIR DOMICILE AND THEIR LIVELIHOOD IS NOT ONLY INHUMAN BUT IS A POLICY AT COMPLETE VARIANCE WITH THE COMMON DESIRES OF OUR GOVERNMENTS TO RELIEVE TENSION.

AS THESE MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN IN THE SOVIET AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY IN GERMANY, I CALL UPON YOU TO TAKE THE STEPS NECESSARY TO INSURE THAT THEY ARE STOPPED.

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END TEXT

IN VIEW BRANDT'S WISH MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT PARLIAMENT AFTERNOON
SEPTEMBER 4, DESIRABLE TIMETABLE WOULD BE COMMUNICATION TO
BRANDT INFORMATION REGARDING ALLIED INTENTIONS AFTERNOON OR
EVENING SEPTEMBER 3 AND FORWARDING ANY MESSAGE TO BE SENT
TO SOVIETS MORNING SEPTEMBER 4 BEFORE MEETING BERLIN PARLIA-
MENT.

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